

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 EA-06 PM-03 NSC-05
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R 182013Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15922

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, CH
SUBJECT: KU MU VISIT TO FRANCE

REF: A) PARIS 14676, B) FARIS 15444

1. SUMMARY: KU MU VISIT TO FRANCE WAS PURELY INFORMA-
TIVE, AND EVIDENTLY FORMED PART OF A BROAD EFFORT TO
EDUCATE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN HOW A MODERN COUNTRY
FUNCTIONS. FRENCH ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT SLOW-
NESS OF CHINESE TO REACH DECISIONS ON INDUSTRIAL PUR-
CHASES, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF SHARP FALL-OFF IN BILAT-
ERAL TRADE LAST YEAR. QUAI NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES
CHINESE HAVE TAKEN DECISION TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH
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FRAMATOME FOR PURCHASE OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR, AND
PROBABLY ALSO HAVE TAKEN DECISION TO BUY ANTITANK
MISSILES. QUAI THINKS PUBLIC WAY IN WHICH CHINESE HAVE
SOUGHT EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY MAY BE INTENDED TO CREATE
IMPRESSION THAT WEST EUROPEANS ARE ALIGNED WITH PEKING
IN SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CHINA (LECLERCQ) GAVE US HIS IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING RECENT KU MU VISIT HERE. ON POLITICAL SIDE, HE SAID CHINESE ORIGINALLY SOUGHT TO PORTRAY VISIT AS RETURNING PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S VISIT TO PEKING. THEY CONTENDED THAT KU MU WOULD ONLY VISIT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT HAD SENT HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS TO CHINA RECENTLY. HOWEVER, FRENCH DID NOT CONSIDER KU MU EQUIVALENT IN RANK, AND VISIT WAS ALSO CLEARLY MORE TECHNICAL THAN POLITICAL IN NATURE. FRENCH THEREFORE MADE CLEAR TO CHINESE THAT THEY WOULD ONLY CONSIDER A VISIT BY HUA AS RETURNING BARRE TRIP, BUT CHINESE HAVE STILL GIVEN NO INDICATION OF WHEN SUCH A VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE.

2. FRENCH THINK THERE IS STILL A SLIM POSSIBILITY THAT HUA WOULD COME TO FRANCE FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA (AND POSSIBLY ALSO ROMANIA), WHICH THEY EXPECT TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. (LECLERCQ SAID YUGOSLAWS AND CHINESE HAVE NOW REACHED THE STAGE OF DISCUSSING ACTUAL DATES FOR THIS VISIT.) BUT IN VIEW OF POLITICAL SYMBOLISM OF TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA FRENCH NOW THINK IT MORE LIKELY THAT HUA WILL MAKE A LATER TRIP HERE, POSSIBLY COMBINING IT WITH A VISIT TO ANOTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY, IN ORDER NOT TO WATER DOWN THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE YUGOSLAVIA TRIP. (COMMENT: IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, A CHINESE DIPLO-CONFIDENTIAL

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MAT HERE, EVIDENTLY SPEAKING ON THE BASIS OF OFFICIAL GUIDANCE, TOLD A CHINESE-SPEAKING EMBOFF THAT CHINESE EMBASSY IN PARIS DOES NOT EXPECT A HUA VISIT TO FRANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHINESE DIPLOMAT SAID HUA IS VERY BUSY NOW AND HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CHINA. END COMMENT.)

3. MEANWHILE, WE NOTE THAT PARIS MAYOR AND FORMER GAULLIST PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC EVIDENTLY OBTAINED AN INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA FROM KU MU. CHIRAC NO DOUBT WILL WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADD TO HIS POLITICAL IMAGE IN FRANCE.

4. LECLERCQ SAID THAT BY FAR THE DOMINANT ASPECT OF THE KU MU VISIT WAS INFORMATION-GATHERING. CHINESE TOLD FRENCH IN ADVANCE THAT EVERYONE IN THE PARTY, INCLUDING KU MU HIMSELF, WANTED TO SEE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THEY PRESENTED FRENCH WITH A DETAILED LIST OF THE INSTALLATIONS THEY WISHED TO SEE, CONCENTRATING

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1777
INFO USLO PEKING
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 15922

LIMDIS/NOFORN

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED PARAS 6. & 7.)

ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS. IN SOME CASES, WHEN FRENCH
SUGGESTED OTHER POSSIBILITIES, CHINESE INDICATED
THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED BECAUSE THE INSTALLATION, WHILE
NOT AVAILABLE IN CHINA, WAS NOT THE MOST ADVANCED TECH-
NOLOGY.

5. FRENCH HAVE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT CHINESE ARE
MAKING A BROAD EFFORT TO EXPOSE THEIR SENIOR OFFICIALS
TO WESTERN ORGANIZATION AND WORK METHODS, SO AS TO ED-
UCATE THEM IN HOW A MODERN COUNTRY FUNCTIONS. THIS
IMPRESSION WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF
MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCILS, WITH
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WERE INCLUDED IN
KU MU'S DELEGATION, WITH NO VISIBLE RESPONSIBILITIES.
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LECLERCQ NOTED THAT THE METALLURGICAL DELEGATION TO VISIT FRANCE LATER THIS MONTH WOULD ALSO BE COMPOSED IN THIS WAY. THUS, WITHIN A MONTH FRENCH WILL HAVE RECEIVED 10 OF THE 29 PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, A FACT WHICH LECLERCQ FOUND QUITE STRIKING.

6. NEVERTHELESS, THE KU MU VISIT RESULTED IN NO AGREEMENTS OR SIGNED CONTRACTS, AND THIS FACT HAS FUELED FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT THE SLOWNESS OF THE CHINESE ON REACHING DECISIONS. FRENCH-CHINESE BILATERAL TRADE FELL OFF DRAMATICALLY LAST YEAR, AND THIS TREND CANNOT BE REVERSED WITHOUT NEW CONTRACTS. FRENCH BUSINESSMEN ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE PATIENCE WITH THE ENDLESS PROCESSION OF CHINESE INFORMATION-GATHERING DELEGATIONS, AND NO CONTRACTS. ALSO, FRENCH DO NOW WANT TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF PROVIDING A FEW HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ITEMS, WHILE MORE PROFITABLE CONTRACTS FOR LESS ADVANCED ITEMS GO TO THEIR COMPETITORS.

7. THE SINGLE ITEM ON WHICH LECLERCQ SAID HE THOUGHT CHINESE HAD REACHED A DECISION WAS THE FRAMATOME NUCLEAR REACTOR. CHINESE EVIDENTLY NOW WANT TO ENTER PRICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRAMATOME FIRM, A STEP WHICH QUAI THINKS INDICATES A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

COMMENT: IN VIEW OF GROWING POSSIBILITY OF A SALE, GISCARD MAY WELL RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 26. REF (B) SUMMARIZES HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS SALE. END COMMENT.)

8. ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE SALE OF ANTI-TANK MISSILES, LECLERCQ SAID HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED BECAUSE MILITARY SALES WERE NOT HANDLED THROUGH THE QUAI. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE STATUS OF THIS NEGOTIATION IS THE SAME AS FOR THE NUCLEAR REACTOR: THE CHINESE HAVE REACHED A FAVORABLE DECISION, BUT NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED ON THE SALE. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT SOVIETS HAD GIVEN FRENCH A SHARP WARNING SOME TIME AGO ON MILITARY SALES TO CHINA, BUT HAD NOT REPEATED THIS WARNING RECENTLY.

9. LECLERCQ SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE MYSTIFIED BY PRESS REPORTS THAT A CHINESE GENERAL HAD SAID THE PURCHASE OF ANTITANK MISSILES HAD BEEN AGREED. HE SPECULATED THAT THIS DIVERGENCE FROM THE USUAL CHINESE DISCRETION MAY BE PART OF A BROAD CHINESE EFFORT TO PORTRAY JAPAN AND WESTERN EUROPE AS ALIGNED WITH PEKING IN THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE. CHINESE INTEREST IN AN EARLY PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH JAPAN, AND

THE LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS TO WESTERN EUROPE, MAY
ALSO BE PARTS OF THIS EFFORT.
HARTMAN

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